

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 IO-10 AID-05 PC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4689

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PANAMA CANAL CO

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DEPT PLS PASS ALL ARA POST

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECIN, PINT, XM

SUBJECT: SELA III

REF: PANAMA 4608

1. FIRST MINISTERIAL-LEVEL SESSION OF SELA MEETING WAS OPENED THIS MORNING BY CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT, GENERAL TORRIJOS. IN SESSION OPEN TO PRESS AND INVITED GUESTS, HEAD OF PANAMANIAN DELEGATION, PLANNING MINISTER BARLETTA, WAS AGAIN ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF PROCEEDINGS; JAMAICAN, ECUADORAN, AND URUGUAYAN DELEGATES WERE CHOSEN VICE-CHAIRMEN, AND GUATEMALAN, RAPPORTEUR.

2. IN HIS OPENING REMARKS, BARLETTA WELCOMED THE HIGH LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION AT THE MEETING AND, AS HE DID AT THE FIRST PRELIMINARY SESSION, CHARACTERIZED SELA AS A POSITIVE INITIATIVE, ONE MADE BY LATIN AMERICAN FOR LATIN AMERICA AND DEMONSTRATING THE REGION'S MATURITY. SELA DERIVES FROM THE FACT THAT LATIN AMERICA IS NOT NOW SOLVING ITS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

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WITH CURRENT MECHANISMS AND THUS REQUIRES A NEW "SYSTEM,"

ONE WHICH CAN MAKE USE OF NEW REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL ORGANISMS WITH GREATER FLEXIBILITY. SELA IS NOT TO REPLACE PRESENT INSTITUTIONS, BUT RATHER TO BUILD ON THEM.

3. THE HEAD OF MEXICAN DELEGATION (ALEJO) RESPONDED WITH A PLEDGE OF SOLIDARITY ON THE PART OF ALL PARTICIPANTS WITH PANAMA. HE BEGAN BY REFERRING TO THE BROACHING OF CONCEPT BY PRESIDENT ECHEVARRIA AND THEN TRACED DEVELOPING NEED FOR A MECHANISM SUCH AS SELA THROUGH THE "FAILURE" OF ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS TO CHANGE BASIC ECONOMIC STRUCTURES OF CONTINENT, INADEQUACY OF INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM (CITING FAILURE TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENT ON ISSUE OF COLLECTIVE ECONOMIC SECURITY), AND RESISTANCE OF SOME DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO INITIATIVES WITHIN UN FRAMEWORK FOR NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER (NIEO) AND CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS DUTIES AND RIGHTS OF STATES (CERDS). HE CALLED FOR A SYSTEM WHICH WILL FACILITATE FLEXIBLE, FEASIBLE ACCORDS AMONG MEMBERS, FORMATION OF LATIN AMERICAN MULTI-NATIONAL COMPANIES, AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGE. SELA'S GOALS SHOULD BE ECONOMIC CONSULTATION, COOPERATION, COORDINATION, AND PROMOTION.

4. GENERAL TORRIJOS DESCRIBED NEED FOR A NEW MECHANISM WHICH COULD ASSURE LATIN AMERICA OF ITS CAPACITY TO RESPOND TO ITS OWN PROBLEMS. HE STRESSED NECESSITY FOR RAPID RESPONSES WHICH BRING SOLUTIONS, REMINDING DELEGATES THAT PEOPLE OF LATIN AMERICA ARE CLAMORING FOR ANSWERS, RESULTS, AND NOT MORE MEETINGS.

5. COMMENT: MINISTERIAL SESSION GOES INTO CLOSED SESSION THIS AFTERNOON (JULY 31). WHILE THERE IS UNANIMITY THAT THERE ARE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WHICH MUST BE SOLVED, STATEMENTS DURING PUBLIC SESSIONS HAVE NOT YET SPELLED OUT EXACTLY WHAT "MECHANISM" OR "SYSTEM" WILL BE OR HOW IT WILL WORK. MEETING UNDOUBT-

EDLY WILL, HOWEVER, REACH POLITICAL DECISION THAT SOMETHING NEW IS TO BE TRIED. AGAIN THERE WAS NO DIRECT MENTION OF U.S. IN THIS MORNING'S SPEECHES. EMBASSY DID NOT RECEIVE WRITTEN INVITATION TO ATTEND SESSION AS DID OTHER LA AND NON-LA DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS HERE, ALTHOUGH EMBOFFS WHO PRESENTED THEMSELVES AT CONFERENCE SITE HAD NO DIFFICULTY IN GAINING ENTRY. ALSO NON-LA COLLEAGUES E.G. BRITISH CHARGE AND EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR, HAVE RECEIVED INVITATIONS TO OFFICIAL SOCIAL AFFAIRS FOR SELA DE-

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LEGATES WHILE EMBASSY OFFICIALS HAVE NOT.
JORDEN

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED ALL ARA POSTS.

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